

Date: May 8, 1997

DSL-BQA-97-020

To: Approved Laboratories Performing
Implied Consent Alcohol Testing

ALC 1

From: Judy Fryback, Director
Bureau of Quality Assurance

Certification of Approved Laboratories Performing Implied Consent Alcohol Testing
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The Bureau of Quality Assurance (BQA), within the Division of Supportive Living, Department of Health and Family Services, is responsible for certifying approved laboratories performing implied consent alcohol testing under Wisconsin Statute 343.305(6)(a). This memo is to update you on information relating to this program.

By statute, an approved laboratory must:

- Employ an alcohol analysis method approved by the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH);
- Participate satisfactorily in a monitoring program administered by DHFS.

WSLH Legal Alcohol Proficiency Testing (PT) Program provides this monitoring service under a memorandum of understanding with DHFS. Graded PT summaries from WSLH are sent to BQA.

Acceptable laboratory performance for a single PT event is a grade of 80%. A grade of less than 80% for a single PT event requires the laboratory to provide BQA a corrective action plan that will remedy the unsatisfactory performance. Unsatisfactory scores on two or more events in a twelve-month period will require your laboratory to suspend implied consent alcohol testing. Additional samples for method evaluation will be provided by WSLH once corrective action has been taken by the laboratory. Approval by BQA for the laboratory to resume implied consent alcohol testing will be contingent on satisfactory analyses of these samples.

Laboratory personnel performing testing of implied consent specimens must hold a valid permit for alcohol analysis. BQA issues permits based on the education and training of analysts who are employed in an approved laboratory. Laboratories must maintain PT performance records for each of their analysts actively involved in implied consent alcohol testing.

Issuance of the permits for alcohol analysis and approval of laboratories occurs at the beginning of each calendar year.

Correspondence to BQA concerning the certified laboratory or analyst programs should be submitted to Sharon Abraham, Supervisor of the Clinical Lab Unit, Division of Supportive Living/BQA, P.O. Box 309, Madison WI 53701-0309, (608) 266-5753.

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